

## REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1 and 14 have been amended and claim 6 has been canceled. No new claims have been added to the application. Accordingly, claims 1-5, 7-20 and 22 are pending in the application. No new matter has been added to the application.

In the prior Office Action, the Examiner:

- rejected claims 1, 2, 7 and 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Helms, U.S. Pat. 4,438,864;
- rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Helms in view of Ignell, U.S. Pat. 3,339,605;
- allowed claims 8-13, 18-20 and 22; and
- objected to claims 4-6 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that claims 4-6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this amendment, claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 6, which has been canceled. Thus, claim 1 is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 2, 3 and 7 depend from claim 1 and are thus also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 14 is an independent claim that claims an end cap used in the combination claimed in claim 1. Claim 14 has also been amended to include the limitations set forth in claim 6. Claim 14 is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 13-17 depend from claim 14 and are thus also believed to be in condition for allowance.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is

Application No. 10/773,393  
Amendment After Final dated September 20, 2007  
Reply to Office action of August 24, 2007

invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge the same to Deposit Account No. 18-0160, Order No. EPT-15067.

Respectfully submitted,

RANKIN, HILL, PORTER & CLARK LLP

By: /Randolph E. Digges, III/

Randolph E. Digges, III  
Reg. No. 40590

700 Huntington Building  
925 Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115-1405  
TEL: (216) 566-9700  
FAX: (216) 566-9711  
[docketing@rankinhill.com](mailto:docketing@rankinhill.com)